

From: Torrey Hoffman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to express my concern and disappointment with the proposed judgement in the Microsoft Antitrust case. It seems that the Department of Justice has won the case, only to concede defeat at the end.

As a software engineer, I've watched with disappointment for years as Microsoft has leveraged their desktop operating system dominance to crush one competitor after another.

I believe that few informed purchasers choose Microsoft products on their merits alone - rather, people buy Microsoft mainly because they need to exchange Microsoft Word and Excel documents.

One way to restore competition to the market would be to require Microsoft to completely specify and fully document their Microsoft Office file formats. No changes should be allowed without several months notice and complete documentation in advance.

This would allow competitors to create viable alternatives with the ability to interoperate with Microsoft, and would restore competition to an industry that badly needs it.

Please, consider a judgement which forces Microsoft to allow competitors to interoperate with their products.

Thank you for your consideration.

Torrey Hoffman